

Environment Committee Public Hearing 3.7.2022

RE: SB 243- An Act Concerning Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, Vice-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Miner and Rep. Harding, and members of the Environment Committee, and my Barkhamsted legislators Representative Anderson and Senator Witkos:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 243- An Act Concerning Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices.

My name is Melody Wright and I am a registered nurse, as well as have a small family farm here in CT. I am involved with multiple local and regional agricultural organizations such as New Connecticut Farmers Alliance, Bionutrient Food Association, and Northeast Organic Farmers Association, and also have been a grant recipient and reviewer with the USDA SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) program.

Support to CT farmers under this bill is forward thinking and smart fiscally, helps to promote a local and more resilient food system, and promotes a landscape that is part of the beauty of CT. I've seen two local farms, Holcomb Farm and SubEdge Farm, have significant damage and crop loss with this past summer's epic rains. Farmers recognize both the impact of climate change but also our role in mitigation. Literally every farmer I know wants to continue to learn and implement management practices that will contribute to improvements in nutrient, soil, water and energy cycles. But we need both financial and technical support to make this happen.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 243. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Melody Wright,

Pleasant Valley Botanicals

Barkhamsted, CT